

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for reading/writing information on a circular information carrier having an inner area and an outer area, said apparatus comprising:

a turntable for supporting and rotating said information carrier; and

additional means for applying an end load on said outer area of said information carrier for setting a predetermined height difference between said inner area and said outer area, said predetermined height difference being greater than a maximum initial height difference occurring in a circular information carrier.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1~~8~~, wherein said additional means comprises a cover clamped to said turntable thereby capturing said information carrier therebetween, said turntable supporting said inner area of said information carrier, and said cover having a circular ring for contacting said outer area of said information carrier, said contact defining a contact point projecting below said inner area thereby effecting said predetermined height difference.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~18~~, wherein said additional means comprises a cover for clamping said inner area of said information carrier to said turntable, and a circular ring interdependent with said turntable, said circular ring contacting said outer area of said information carrier, said contact defining a contact point projecting above said inner area thereby effecting said predetermined height difference.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~18~~, wherein said additional means comprises a wheel rotating freely around a shaft interdependent with said apparatus, said wheel contacting said outer area of said information carrier, said contact defining a contact point projecting below or above said inner area thereby effecting said predetermined height difference.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~22~~, wherein said apparatus further comprises:  
an optical pick-up unit movable along a guide shaft, said guide shaft being parallel to the radial direction of the turntable; and  
an actuator fixed on said optical pick-up unit and being centered on an optical axis, said optical axis being perpendicular to the radial direction of said information carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~29~~, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

an optical pick-up unit movable along a guide shaft, said  
guide shaft being parallel to the radial direction of said  
5 information carrier; and

an actuator on said optical pick-up unit and being  
centered on an optical axis, said optical axis being perpendicular  
to the radial direction of said information carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 29,  
wherein the turntable comprises a tilted inner surface for  
supporting said information carrier.